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SINCE 1878

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ID of angler found in Haddam brings closure

By Jesse Leavenworth
STAFF WRITER

HADDAM — For many years, Kerry Canfield said Monday, he thought his brother's remains had washed all the way down the Connecticut River from Vermont to the ocean.

Kerry Canfield had no way of knowing at the time, but an unidentified skull was found in 2006 on the Connecticut River



Brian Canfield

shore in Haddam, five years after Brian Canfield was presumed drowned while fishing from his boat 170 miles upriver. Brian Canfield's family did not learn until earlier this month that his remains were positively identified through a com-

parison with the DNA of Kerry Canfield, his only sibling.

"It was a shock to the system," Kerry Canfield, who now lives in Delaware, said of the phone call he received recently from a Connecticut state trooper. "Part of me had kind of given up on him."

Brian Canfield, 38, was reported missing in Harland, Vt. on April 9, 2001, a day after he went fishing with a buddy in the Sum-

ner Falls section of the Connecticut River. Searchers found Brian Canfield's empty aluminum boat, and about two weeks later they found the body of his friend, Terry Brinegar, 44, of Mount Holly, Vt. But there was no sign of Brian Canfield in the fast-moving river.

Sumner Falls is known for walleyes and rainbow trout, the Union Leader newspaper of Manchester, **Canfield continues on A6**



Patrick Sikes/For Hearst Connecticut Media

A file photo of the Connecticut River in Haddam. Police said a human skull found on the banks of the river in 2006 has been identified, linked by DNA to Brian Canfield, who drowned in the Connecticut River in Vermont 25 years ago.



Above and below, St. Sebastian Church in Middletown celebrates its feast for its patron saint each year with a running of the Nuri, or devoted, some of whom carry the heavy statue around the block in a large procession.

105th St. Sebastian festival this weekend

By Kaitlin Keane
STAFF WRITER

MIDDLETOWN — From Italian fare and carnival fun to the traditional running of the Nuri, Middletown residents and St. Sebastian devotees alike can expect a festive celebration from this weekend's 105th annual St. Sebastian Feast.

"What's nice is it's not only a three-day festival — it brings all the parishioners and many of the residents of the town to the church," said Mario Mazzotta, co-chair of the St. Sebastian Feast. "I



think it's going to be a phenomenal weekend."

St. Sebastian lived from the years 256 to 288 and is the patron St. for Melilli, Sicily in Italy and Middletown. He was persecuted for his unyielding belief in Catholicism and is recognized as a martyr and a St. for the Italians and for Sicily, according to Mazzotta.

Melilli's St. Sebastian Church festival started in 1914. Mazzotta said many of the residents of Melilli who emigrated to the United States in the early 1940s and **Festival continues on A6**

High school students may soon get free bus passes

By Ignacio Laguarda
STAFF WRITER

High school students in Connecticut may soon get access to free public bus transportation under a recently approved bill that the governor was expected to sign into law.

The General Assembly approved an extensive bill last week that included a number of items, including a plan to hand out free bus passes on the CTtransit system to students in grades 9 through 12 and to military veterans.

CTtransit runs the bus systems in Bristol, Meriden, New Britain, Wallingford and Waterbury as well as in Hartford, New Haven and Stamford.

The plan would require the state Department of Transportation to administer the program, and it would set aside \$2.5 million for the upcoming fiscal year to fund it.

Jay Stange, a consultant with the New Haven Coalition for Active Transportation advocacy group, called the bill a big win for public transportation.

"Bus passes aren't handouts, they are investments," he said in a press release from the organization. "Each bus pass provided to a high school student or veteran is a ticket to opportunity, a chance to play afterschool sports, go to the doctor, work a job, participate in nonprofit programming or be more connected to the community."

In February, Gov. Ned Lamont announced that his budget proposal to the General Assembly included \$3.5 million in funding to provide free bus passes to military veterans and a 50% discount for students in grades K-12, which differs from the free bus program for high school students that was recent-

Bus continues on A6

ELECTION 2026

Bronin stuns Larson, wins Dem nomination for Congress

By Alex Putterman
STAFF WRITER

EAST HARTFORD — A tense Democratic convention Monday night ended in an upset in Connecticut's 1st Congressional District: Former Hartford mayor Luke Bronin, not 14-term incumbent U.S. Rep. John Larson, will be the party's en-



Former Hartford mayor Luke Bronin smiles Monday after an upset win at the 1st Congressional District Democratic convention.

Jim Michaud/Hearst Connecticut Media

'A political earthquake' hits Connecticut with Bronin win

EAST HARTFORD — In the minutes before voting started at the 1st Congressional District's Democratic convention Monday night, Jenette Lawrence held out as a rare delegate in a Goodwin University auditorium brimming with signs and shirts for the four candidates.

She was undecided. And the race was too close to call.

Would she cast her



DAN HAAR
COMMENTARY

vote for U.S. Rep. John B. Larson, seeking his 15th term in Congress, who held the top spot in the state Senate before his 28

years in Washington DC? Or former Hartford mayor Luke Bronin, hardly an upstart as a mid-career politico, who's trying to force Larson into retirement?

Her choice was between those two, not the longshot candidates state Rep. Jillian Gilchrest, D-West Hartford, or Ruth Fortune, a member of the Hartford Board of Educa-

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Weather: Morning showers.
High: 64. Low: 51.
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